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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
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Washington, DC 20515-6115

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May 16, 2007

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DENNIS B. FITZGIBBONS, CHIEF OF STAFF
GREGG A. ROTHCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

Dr. Paul J. Kovnat, M.D.
Chairman
New Mexico State Board of Medical Examiners
2055 S. Pacheco St., Building 400
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Dr. Kovnat:

During 2005-2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated certain public health issues identified by a federal judge in her opinion *In Re: Silica Products Liability Litigation*, MLD Docket No.1533 (S.D. Tex., June 30, 2005). Both the Committee's investigations and the Court's opinion in *In Re: Silica* revealed information about how physicians and medical screening companies generated thousands of questionable diagnoses of silicosis in support of personal injury lawsuits. Often, the patients who received these diagnoses did not receive appropriate follow-up care. Further, some of the companies participating in the screenings were not licensed or registered in the state where the screenings were conducted.

In March, 2006 the Committee sent several AMA member states, including New Mexico, letters requesting information concerning several physicians who were identified as participants in soliciting patient-plaintiffs for the silicosis trials. Last month one such physician, Raymond A. Harron, M.D., surrendered his Texas medical license as a result of an investigation into his involvement in the silicosis litigation. Attached is the order from the Texas Medical Board in which Findings of Fact #3 states that Dr. Harron is licensed in your state. As Members of Congress we believe it is our obligation to forward specific and credible information that could possibly assist your Medical Board's review of this individual's continued fitness to hold a medical license in your state.

Accordingly, we would appreciate being informed of your state's Medical Board action, including the following information:

Dr. Paul J. Kovnat, M.D.

Page 2

1. If Dr. Harron's medical license has been or will be suspended, revoked, or surrendered, a copy of the relevant documents reflecting that disposition.
2. If no disciplinary action has been or will be taken against Dr. Harron, the Medical Board's reasons for refraining from such action.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Alan Slobodin or Krista Lynn Carpenter of the Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Commerce



Ed Whitfield
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

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Dr. H. Frank Farmer, Jr., M.D.
Chairman
Florida Board of Medicine
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C06
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Dr. Farmer:

During 2005-2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated certain public health issues identified by a federal judge in her opinion *In Re: Silica Products Liability Litigation*, MLD Docket No.1533 (S.D. Tex., June 30, 2005). Both the Committee's investigations and the Court's opinion in *In Re: Silica* revealed information about how physicians and medical screening companies generated thousands of questionable diagnoses of silicosis in support of personal injury lawsuits. Often, the patients who received these diagnoses did not receive appropriate follow-up care. Further, some of the companies participating in the screenings were not licensed or registered in the state where the screenings were conducted.

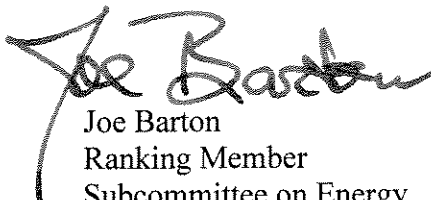
In March, 2006 the Committee sent several AMA member states, including Florida, letters requesting information concerning several physicians who were identified as participants in soliciting patient-plaintiffs for the silicosis trials. Last month one such physician, Raymond A. Harron, M.D., surrendered his Texas medical license as a result of an investigation into his involvement in the silicosis litigation. Attached is the order from the Texas Medical Board in which Findings of Fact #3 states that Dr. Harron is licensed in your state. As Members of Congress we believe it is our obligation to forward specific and credible information that could possibly assist your Medical Board's review of this individual's continued fitness to hold a medical license in your state.

Accordingly, we would appreciate being informed of your state's Medical Board action, including the following information:


1. If Dr. Harron's medical license has been or will be suspended, revoked, or surrendered, a copy of the relevant documents reflecting that disposition.
2. If no disciplinary action has been or will be taken against Dr. Harron, the Medical Board's reasons for refraining from such action.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Alan Slobodin or Krista Lynn Carpenter of the Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Commerce



Ed Whitfield
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

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DENNIS B. FITZGIBBONS, CHIEF OF STAFF
GREGG A. ROTHSCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

Dr. Laurie Gregg, M.D.
President
Medical Board of California
1426 Howe Avenue, #54
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Dr. Gregg:

During 2005-2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated certain public health issues identified by a federal judge in her opinion *In Re: Silica Products Liability Litigation*, MLD Docket No.1533 (S.D. Tex., June 30, 2005). Both the Committee's investigations and the Court's opinion in *In Re: Silica* revealed information about how physicians and medical screening companies generated thousands of questionable diagnoses of silicosis in support of personal injury lawsuits. Often, the patients who received these diagnoses did not receive appropriate follow-up care. Further, some of the companies participating in the screenings were not licensed or registered in the state where the screenings were conducted.

In March, 2006 the Committee sent several AMA member states, including California, letters requesting information concerning several physicians who were identified as participants in soliciting patient-plaintiffs for the silicosis trials. Last month one such physician, Raymond A. Harron, M.D., surrendered his Texas medical license as a result of an investigation into his involvement in the silicosis litigation. Attached is the order from the Texas Medical Board in which Findings of Fact #3 states that Dr. Harron is licensed in your state. As Members of Congress we believe it is our obligation to forward specific and credible information that could possibly assist your Medical Board's review of this individual's continued fitness to hold a medical license in your state.

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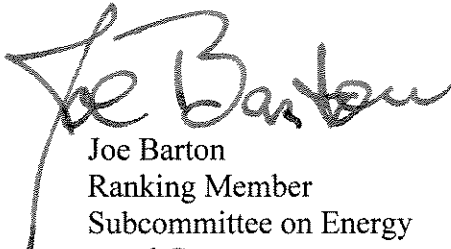
Dr. Laurie Gregg, M.D.

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We appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Alan Slobodin or Krista Lynn Carpenter of the Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
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Ed Whitfield
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DENNIS B. FITZGIBBONS, CHIEF OF STAFF
GREGG A. ROTHSCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

Dr. H. Roger Netzer, M.D.
Chairman
Hawaii Board of Medical Examiners
DCCA-PVL
Att: BME
P.O. Box 3469
Honolulu, HI 96801

Dear Dr. Netzer:

During 2005-2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated certain public health issues identified by a federal judge in her opinion *In Re: Silica Products Liability Litigation*, MLD Docket No.1533 (S.D. Tex., June 30, 2005). Both the Committee's investigations and the Court's opinion in *In Re: Silica* revealed information about how physicians and medical screening companies generated thousands of questionable diagnoses of silicosis in support of personal injury lawsuits. Often, the patients who received these diagnoses did not receive appropriate follow-up care. Further, some of the companies participating in the screenings were not licensed or registered in the state where the screenings were conducted.

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Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Commerce



Ed Whitfield
Ranking Member
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GREGG A. ROTHSCCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

Dr. Dewitt G. Crawford, M.D.
President
Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure
1867 Crane Ridge Drive, Suite 200-B
Jackson, MS 39216

Dear Dr. Crawford:

During 2005-2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated certain public health issues identified by a federal judge in her opinion *In Re: Silica Products Liability Litigation*, MLD Docket No.1533 (S.D. Tex., June 30, 2005). Both the Committee's investigations and the Court's opinion in *In Re: Silica* revealed information about how physicians and medical screening companies generated thousands of questionable diagnoses of silicosis in support of personal injury lawsuits. Often, the patients who received these diagnoses did not receive appropriate follow-up care. Further, some of the companies participating in the screenings were not licensed or registered in the state where the screenings were conducted.

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Dr. Dewitt G. Crawford, M.D.

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Dr. Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner
New York Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Dr. Daines:

During 2005-2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated certain public health issues identified by a federal judge in her opinion *In Re: Silica Products Liability Litigation*, MLD Docket No.1533 (S.D. Tex., June 30, 2005). Both the Committee's investigations and the Court's opinion in *In Re: Silica* revealed information about how physicians and medical screening companies generated thousands of questionable diagnoses of silicosis in support of personal injury lawsuits. Often, the patients who received these diagnoses did not receive appropriate follow-up care. Further, some of the companies participating in the screenings were not licensed or registered in the state where the screenings were conducted.

In March, 2006 the Committee sent several AMA member states, including New York, letters requesting information concerning several physicians who were identified as participants in soliciting patient-plaintiffs for the silicosis trials. Last month one such physician, Raymond A. Harron, M.D., surrendered his Texas medical license as a result of an investigation into his involvement in the silicosis litigation. Attached is the order from the Texas Medical Board in which Findings of Fact #3 states that Dr. Harron is licensed in your state. As Members of Congress we believe it is our obligation to forward specific and credible information that could possibly assist your Medical Board's review of this individual's continued fitness to hold a medical license in your state.

Accordingly, we would appreciate being informed of your state's Medical Board action, including the following information:

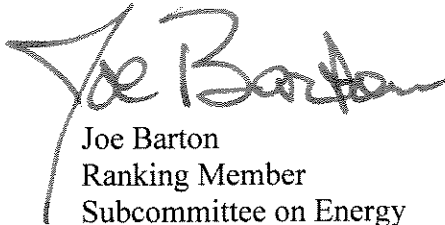
Dr. Richard F. Daines, M.D.

Page 2

1. If Dr. Harron's medical license has been or will be suspended, revoked, or surrendered, a copy of the relevant documents reflecting that disposition.
2. If no disciplinary action has been or will be taken against Dr. Harron, the Medical Board's reasons for refraining from such action.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Alan Slobodin or Krista Lynn Carpenter of the Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Commerce



Ed Whitfield
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

Attachment

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS
RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
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GREGG A. ROTHCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2007

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MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

Dr. Angelo N. Georges, M.D.
President
West Virginia Medical Board
101 Dee Drive, Suite 103
Charleston, WV 25311

Dear Dr. Georges:

During 2005-2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated certain public health issues identified by a federal judge in her opinion *In Re: Silica Products Liability Litigation*, MLD Docket No.1533 (S.D. Tex., June 30, 2005). Both the Committee's investigations and the Court's opinion in *In Re: Silica* revealed information about how physicians and medical screening companies generated thousands of questionable diagnoses of silicosis in support of personal injury lawsuits. Often, the patients who received these diagnoses did not receive appropriate follow-up care. Further, some of the companies participating in the screenings were not licensed or registered in the state where the screenings were conducted.

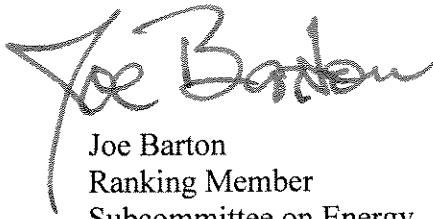
In March, 2006 the Committee sent several AMA member states, including West Virginia, letters requesting information concerning several physicians who were identified as participants in soliciting patient-plaintiffs for the silicosis trials. Last month one such physician, Raymond A. Harron, M.D., surrendered his Texas medical license as a result of an investigation into his involvement in the silicosis litigation. Attached is the order from the Texas Medical Board in which Findings of Fact #3 states that Dr. Harron is licensed in your state. As Members of Congress we believe it is our obligation to forward specific and credible information that could possibly assist your Medical Board's review of this individual's continued fitness to hold a medical license in your state.

Accordingly, we would appreciate being informed of your state's Medical Board action, including the following information:

1. If Dr. Harron's medical license has been or will be suspended, revoked, or surrendered, a copy of the relevant documents reflecting that disposition.
2. If no disciplinary action has been or will be taken against Dr. Harron, the Medical Board's reasons for refraining from such action.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Alan Slobodin or Krista Lynn Carpenter of the Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Commerce



Ed Whitfield
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

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MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

Dr. Kweli J. Amusa, M.D.
President
Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
P.O. Box 30250
New Orleans, LA 70190-0250

Dear Dr. Amusa:

During 2005-2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated certain public health issues identified by a federal judge in her opinion *In Re: Silica Products Liability Litigation*, MLD Docket No.1533 (S.D. Tex., June 30, 2005). Both the Committee's investigations and the Court's opinion in *In Re: Silica* revealed information about how physicians and medical screening companies generated thousands of questionable diagnoses of silicosis in support of personal injury lawsuits. Often, the patients who received these diagnoses did not receive appropriate follow-up care. Further, some of the companies participating in the screenings were not licensed or registered in the state where the screenings were conducted.

In March, 2006 the Committee sent several AMA member states, including Louisiana, letters requesting information concerning several physicians who were identified as participants in soliciting patient-plaintiffs for the silicosis trials. Last month one such physician, Raymond A. Harron, M.D., surrendered his Texas medical license as a result of an investigation into his involvement in the silicosis litigation. Attached is the order from the Texas Medical Board in which Findings of Fact #3 states that Dr. Harron is licensed in your state. As Members of Congress we believe it is our obligation to forward specific and credible information that could possibly assist your Medical Board's review of this individual's continued fitness to hold a medical license in your state.

Accordingly, we would appreciate being informed of your state's Medical Board action, including the following information:

Dr. Kweli J. Amusa, M.D.

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We appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Alan Slobodin or Krista Lynn Carpenter of the Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Commerce



Ed Whitfield
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

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DENNIS B. FITZGIBBONS, CHIEF OF STAFF
GREGG A. ROTHSCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

Dr. H. Arthur McCulloch, M.D.
President
North Carolina Medical Board
PO Box 20007
Raleigh, NC 27619-0007

Dear Dr. McCulloch:

During 2005-2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated certain public health issues identified by a federal judge in her opinion *In Re: Silica Products Liability Litigation*, MLD Docket No.1533 (S.D. Tex., June 30, 2005). Both the Committee's investigations and the Court's opinion in *In Re: Silica* revealed information about how physicians and medical screening companies generated thousands of questionable diagnoses of silicosis in support of personal injury lawsuits. Often, the patients who received these diagnoses did not receive appropriate follow-up care. Further, some of the companies participating in the screenings were not licensed or registered in the state where the screenings were conducted.

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Dr. H. Arthur McCulloch, M.D.

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Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
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Ed Whitfield
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Subcommittee on Oversight
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